

# HL23.2.13

Good Morning, My name is Emmet O'Reilly and I am Nurse Practitioner working with the drug using community in Toronto

As other speakers have noted, there has been a significant increase in OD responses in our Supervised consumption Sites. This accords with the simultaneous alarming increase in overdose deaths that we have seen across the city and the province.

Supervised consumption sites are an essential intervention in response to the overdose crisis. That said, the model essentially consists of highly skilled teams of people standing by as people inject substance we know have a high likelihood of being toxic and even lethal and pulling them back from the brink of death.

This is one of clearest examples of a downstream solution I have ever seen and is simply unsustainable and will not be enough to reverse the OD crisis.

We need to address the toxic supply of drugs. We have added our voice to the voices of the community of drug users in calling for decisive interventions in the supply of drugs.

I participate in the delivery of one such intervention, Safer Opioid Supply. Under this program, we prescribe medication of pharmaceutical quality and known potency which participants can use as they see fit. This is proving to be a highly effective intervention. Again, this is highly limited intervention and should only be part of the solution.

On a municipal level, we join our community in calling on all level of government to provide and make space for community led responses to the crisis. In addition to innovated medical practices like Safer Opioid Supply, offer the community de facto decriminalized spaces to access safer supply would allow the community to care for itself. Buyers' clubs, satellite harm reduction sites and supervised injection sites in TCHCP are only some of the suggestions being put forward.

I implore you to engage with the community and take brave and bold action now. If you do not, we will continue to mourn the loss of more the people we are charged with caring for and we will have to own our significant role in those deaths.

Sincerely,

Emmet O'Reilly RN(EC)

South Riverdale CHC

Downtown East Safer Opioid Supply Program